

I had no difficulty in finding the young of both kinds; and it was from those there obtained that the figures in the accompanying Plate were drawn. The young as well as the old of these two Plovers also differ in the colouring of their soft parts and in the size of their eyes. The characteristic markings of their eggs, too, are also very different.

The visitor to Lydd will also see a fine colony of Black-headed Gulls in a rush-pit in the midst of the wastes, and both the Lesser and Common Terns in abundance. Had my visit to that enchanting spot been a year or two earlier, I might have observed the wandering Sand-Grouse, *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, flying to and fro; for this was one of the localities they frequented when with us, and I had with me as a guide the person who committed the barbarous act of shooting some of them.

The Kentish Plover is a true spring migrant to our shores, and may be seen, at least sparingly, at that season on the coasts of Cornwall, Sussex, Suffolk, and Norfolk. It does not go so far north as Scotland; but, according to Mr. Blake Knox, "it has been observed in a few instances during its migrations on the Dublin coast; it is however, at all times a rare visitant to Ireland."—*Zoologist*, 1866, p. 301.

On the continent of Europe it is more abundant than with us. In some parts of Spain it is particularly numerous, and is found in still greater numbers over the whole of North Africa, and almost as far as the Cape Colony, as is evidenced by Mr. Anderson's 'Notes on the Birds of Damara Land,' p. 272, where he says, "This is rather a rare bird, and hardly to be found except on the sea-coast, in the neighbourhood of which it seeks its food on the open ground, interspersed with grass and aquatic herbage. It feeds on worms and insects, and also on the sandhoppers which abound on the beach of Walwich Bay, and of which it seems particularly fond. I have invariably found it in pairs, but have never met with its nest."

This species is also mentioned in Layard's 'Catalogue of the Birds of Ceylon,' p. 296; and, according to Messrs. Finsch and Hartlaub, it is found at Mozambique, *vide* 'Birds of East Africa,' p. 654.

As we learn from the writings of various authors, the Kentish Plover is particularly plentiful in India. Jerdon, when writing on the birds of this family, says it is more common than either *Ægialitis Geoffroyi* or *Æ. pyrrhithorax*, "being more frequently found far inland on the banks of rivers and large tanks, but prefers the neighbourhood of the sea-coast and large rivers near their mouths. It has a wide geographical distribution over the Old Continent. *Æ. hiaticula*, *ruficapilla*, and *inornata* of Gould, from Australia, are members of this group; and there are others." He then proceeds to remark, "The next group is that of the Ringed Plovers, which frequent dry sandy plains," clearly showing he considered these were two distinct but nearly allied forms—a view of the subject I myself took many years ago.

Mr. Swinhoe states, in his 'List of the Birds of China,' that the Kentish Plover is found on the coasts of that country in winter. This may be the case; but I have seen specimens of a bird from thence which I consider distinct, but most nearly allied, and which certainly possesses characters that, if I may be allowed to speak from recollection, would render it necessary to give it a distinct specific appellation.

The sexes of the Kentish Plover are nearly of the same size; and the average weight is about two ounces. The Plate represents male and female, with young at the age of two or three days, of the natural size.